

## RESOURCE REPORT FOR RARE PLANTS

Sitkoh Lake Trail Reconstruction

Sitka Ranger District

Tongass National Forest

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### INTRODUCTION

The Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan provides standards and guidelines for the conservation, management, inventory, and monitoring of rare plant species. The definition of rare plants on the Tongass National Forest follows the description in Dillman and Krosse (2009). The list of rare plants is dynamic, and species may be added or dropped according to changes in conservation or taxonomic status.

The analysis of effects on Alaska Region sensitive plant species is documented in the project Biological Evaluation for Sensitive Plants. Analysis of project effects on risk of invasive plant infestation is documented in the project Invasive Plant Risk Assessment. Both of these documents are included in the project record.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would fully reconstruct the entire length of Sitkoh Lake Trail from saltwater to the East Sitkoh Lake recreation cabin along the existing trail prism. Depending on the native surface, the tread will be a combination of native material, imported gravel, and boardwalk. Log stringer bridges and other failing trail structures will be reconstructed and additional drainage features such as waterbars and drain dips will be added where needed. A short (approximately ¼ mile) user created spur route between the Sitkoh Lake trail and road 75443 will also be improved by hardening the tread with gravel and boardwalk.

Survey and design is scheduled for 2018 with construction to follow in 2019. The construction phase could last for more than one year and would be dependent on funding.

### RARE PLANTS KNOWN IN THE PROJECT AREA

The US Forest Service Natural Resource Manager (NRM) threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants database and the University of Alaska Museum Herbarium (UAMH) databases were searched on September 11, 2017 for records of rare plants. One rare plant, *Juncus covillei* var. *obtusatus*, has been documented near the project area along the shore of Sitkoh Lake in the vicinity of East Sitkoh Lake Cabin. This species is ranked S1 (critically imperiled in Alaska) by the Alaska Natural Heritage Program.

### PROJECT SURVEYS AND SURVEY RESULTS

Plant field surveys were conducted in the project area in 2009 and 2011. One rare plant occurrence was documented.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

One rare plant occurrence has been documented in the project area. However, it is located a substantial distance from where trail reconstruction activities will occur (existing trail infrastructure or small areas of closed canopy forest). No project activities will take place at or near the rare plant occurrence. Therefore, the project will have no impact on known rare plants.